

at the center of the continuing efforts for fairness and equal education. The National Federation of the Blind, as both the oldest and largest organization of blind people in the United States, is integral to this continuous fight for equality. For the past several decades, the National Federation of the Blind has advocated strongly for the translation of more books and textbooks into Braille so as to both promote Braille literacy and help integrate blind persons into society. As policymakers, we must support the advancement of equality and knowledge that is imbibed in the actions of the NFB. Declaring July 2010 as "Braille Literacy Month" would be one step, but an important one, in our efforts towards promoting equality and education for all persons in the United States.

In my hometown of Chicago, there is a non-profit organization called the Chicago Lighthouse that has provided services and support for the blind for several decades, much like the NFB. Amongst their many accomplishments in education and job training, the Chicago Lighthouse is also responsible for the manufacturing of the many clocks that you see in the U.S. government today—a testament to the skills, talent, and work of the people they serve. Though only one of many achievements, the clocks that you see around you today demonstrate the continuing need to provide equal access to job opportunities and education to those who are blind so as to fulfill their potentials.

In declaring July 2010 as Braille Literacy Month, we would not only be promoting literacy for the blind, but progressing down a road of true equality as well.

RECOGNIZING ALLEN USA FOR UNITING FREEDOM, FAMILIES, AND FUN

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Allen USA for uniting freedom, families, and fun. It's hometown events that promote quality together time while celebrating the bounty of America that make Texas a great place to call home. We're proud to remind folks that we're the land of the free because of the brave! My hat is off to the great folks at the City of Allen and Allen Parks Foundation who make Allen USA a success year after year. Below is information detailing this worthy celebration. It is an honor to be a part of it. God bless you all and I salute you one and all.

Produced as a cooperative effort between the City of Allen and the Allen Parks Foundation, the Allen USA celebration is Allen's largest and most spectacular community event to say the least! Centered around the theme of being "First to the Fourth", Allen USA serves as the community's Fourth of July celebration, uniquely held the last Saturday of June every year. Being the last Saturday in June allows the event to be a stand out among area cities' celebrations and promotes attendance locally, regionally and statewide.

Allen USA began in 1995, taking place in the intimate surroundings of Bethany Lakes Park and Joe Farmer Recreation Center amphitheater. An estimated 5,000 people at-

tended the first event complete with fireworks, a thrilling laser show and entertainment provided by the Allen Civic Chorus and other local talent.

The phenomenal success from these humble beginnings led the event to move to a larger venue at Allen Station Park. Attendance grew to more than 20,000 as the entertainment included national recording artists such as Jerry Jeff Walker, Vince Vance and the Valiants, and others.

In 2003, Allen USA exploded in attendance with a move to Allen's new 106 acre Celebration Park. Since that time, the event has grown to a regular attendance of up to 65,000 people and has included national recording artists such as Survivor, JT Taylor from Kool and the Gang, Eddie Money, 38 Special and Three Dog Night to name a few.

There is truly something for everyone at Allen USA! A number of concessionaires will be on site selling all of your favorite festival foods and snacks. The Kids Zone hosts a multitude of bounce houses and play structures for children to enjoy. The Activity Zone provides fun and exciting entertainment for children and youth of all ages.

This year our Main Stage will be rockin' with the tunes of the Commodores and, after what promises to be an exciting performance, the evening ends with one of the largest fireworks shows set to music in North Texas! And did we mention . . . admission is FREE!

Allen USA also gives back to the community! A number of civic organizations support the event through countless volunteer hours to sell soft drinks, souvenirs and assist with festival activities. The event returns back to them a portion of the proceeds for their hard work and support!

Many people have said that it's the memories they create at Allen USA that keeps them coming back year after year. The family friendly reputation of this event is what grabs other's attention to attend for the first time! But regardless of why people attend, at the end of the night, the smiles say it all! So come party in the park with us . . . you'll be glad you did!"

HONORING RON GETTELFINGER FOR HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE UAW

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, thank you, Representative DINGELL and thank you for organizing this special order hour to honor Ron Gettelfinger.

I rise today to honor Ron Gettelfinger as he retires from the United Auto Workers where he has served for the last eight years as President.

Thank you President Gettelfinger for your service—not only to your membership but to our Nation.

You have made a difference and you have made our Nation a stronger and a better place.

Your efforts have strengthened the middle class.

In 1964, Ron Gettelfinger became a member of UAW Local 862.

He worked as a chassis line repairman and was elected by the workers at Ford's Louisville Assembly plant to represent them.

Ron served as Director of UAW Region 3, which includes Indiana and Kentucky . . .

Ron exemplified what it means to be a leader.

Through his leadership, the UAW has navigated the difficult waters of the financial collapse in 2008 and the current recession.

And as unfair trade deals have devastated U.S. manufacturing jobs, Ron Gettelfinger stood strong in the fight for a new approach to trade.

Fair trade that works with our workers and businesses, not against them.

Ron Gettelfinger has called for fair trade agreements that include workers' rights and environmental provisions.

And Ron Gettelfinger has called for the so-called Free Trade Agreement with South Korea to be renegotiated.

This Bush-negotiated trade agreement would allow unfair advantages for Korean automakers to persist.

In 2009, our trade deficit with South Korea in autos was \$7.8 billion.

Korean automakers control 95 percent of their domestic auto market.

And Ron Gettelfinger led the charge for reciprocity of market access, calling on Korea to open their market.

Ron knows, as we know, that our workers are the very best in the world and can compete on a level-playing field.

Ron negotiated deals for working families and our trade representative must also negotiate good deals with our working families in mind.

Because of Ron's leadership during his eight years as President and his service to UAW members since 1964, I am proud to represent 8,700 active and retired UAW members in my Congressional District.

In Ohio, we have at least 111,000 active and retired UAW members.

Thank you again Ron for your outstanding service to the UAW, to American manufacturing, and to our Nation.

SUPPORTING THE REFUGEES AT CAMP ASHRAF

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the refugees living at Camp Ashraf in Iraq. I am disturbed by reports of continued abuse of these Iranian refugees by the same Iraqi forces that are responsible for ensuring their safety. In light of the recent announcement of an upcoming U.S. troop withdrawal from the camp, I urge Congress to support the residents at Camp Ashraf by ensuring they receive the protection that they deserve.

These refugees, who have been forced from their homes in Iran, are exactly the kind of defenseless people the international community needs to ensure are protected. Unfortunately, they have been subject to bloody incursions from the Iraqi army, such as the travesty of last year's attack which killed 11 people and injured over 400. It is critical that the United States and international community work to ensure that the residents of this camp are treated humanely.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the refugees at Camp Ashraf.